

among the logs the stove was overturned, setting fire to the house which was destroyed. Three saw-mills with their dams on the stream were torn to pieces or swept off—the Campbell mill just below the dam, the

Reynolds mill and the Wademan mill a short distance above the picturesque falls which are depicted on another page.

The remains of the dam are still viewed most curiously by people driving from this city to Crystal lake. The White Bridge was taken away by the flood which also caused a suspension of the mines for some time. The dam had been built twelve years. It



C. T. PIERSON.

was nearly thirty feet in height, built of stone twelve feet at the base and eight feet at the top with a heavy earth embankment in the rear. It was intended to furnish a reserve of water for the company. It flooded about fifty acres.

CONFLAGRATIONS OF

YEARS AGO.

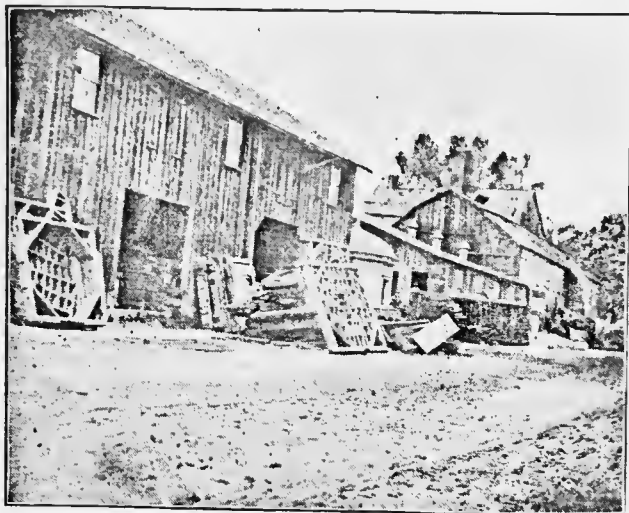
Carbondalians of today can little realize the disasters from fires which swept over this city in its early history. The business interests of the town received a severe blow September 28, 1850, by a disastrous fire which broke out in the Carbondale House, kept by G. W. Thomas, and burned nearly that entire portion. The space burned over extended from Memorial park northward on Main street and the west side of Church street. It consumed sixty buildings owned by forty-two people. The loss was estimated at \$70,700. Insurance \$35,600. A fire broke out in W. W. Bronson's Railway hotel September 16, 1855, which destroyed the hotel and many other buildings. It or-

iginated in the cupola from a troupe of show people who were playing cards. April 10, 1859, a fire broke out in the office of Alfred Darte, which burned the Harrison House and many stores and offices on the west side of Main street between Salem avenue and the City hall. Another fire occurred September 15, 1866, which destroyed buildings on the east side of Main street, from Salem avenue down with a vast loss of property. March 29, 1867, the entire business portion of the city, below the City hall, was burned, the flames destroying forty stores and shops and leaving sixty families homeless. The entire loss was \$200,000 with an insurance of little over \$100,000.

Carbondale was particularly afflicted by the elements in September, 1850. On the 27th of that month, the day preceding the first big fire, occurred an unprecedentedly severe hail storm. It came up about 5 o'clock in the afternoon accompanied by a strong wind from the southwest. Great damage was done. The windows facing the west suffered most as nearly every pane of glass in them was broken. The hail stones were of a peculiarly irregular cast and some were said to have been picked up four inches in length.

THE BLACK FEVER.

The most sorrowful period in Carbondale's history was during the winter of 1863-64 when the plague of black fever settled upon the city. It began about December 1 and continued to the end of the following April. The winter was an open one and yet as soon as spring came the plague passed away. No satisfac-



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